Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended):   A method of information processing comprising:

receiving a command from a provider apparatus;

processing the command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more provider apparatuses and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area,

wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area size being based on subtracting the first area size from the size of the memory section and the first area size being based on the number of provider apparatuses the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of provider apparatuses,

wherein processing the command includes accessing one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus; and

transmitting results of said processing.

Claim 17 (previously presented):   The method of claim 16, wherein an unused area of the second area is allocated to said first area.

Claim 18 (previously presented):   The method of claim 16, wherein processing the command includes accessing two or more area definition blocks having different access rights to a same predetermined area.

Claim 19 (previously presented):   The method of claim 16, wherein the second area includes a common area which is accessible by two or more of the plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 20 (currently amended):   An information processing apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a command from a provider apparatus;

means for processing the received command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more provider apparatuses and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area size being based on subtracting the first area size from the size of the memory section and the first area size being based on the number of provider apparatuses the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of provider apparatuses,

wherein processing the command includes:

determining the access right data for one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus; and

accessing the predetermined area associated with the one of the plurality of area definition blocks in accordance with the determined access right data; and

means for transmitting results of said processing.

Claim 21 (previously presented):   The information processing apparatus of claim 20, wherein the second area is accessed by determining the access rights to a same predetermined area associated with two or more area definition blocks having different access rights to that same predetermined area.

Claim 22 (previously presented):   The information processing apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second area includes a block unit defined to be accessed from two or more of the plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 23 (previously presented):   The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the second area includes a common area which is accessible by two or more of the plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 24 (previously presented):   The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein data related to each access right is either read/write access data or read only access data.

Claim 25 (currently amended):   A method of information processing comprising:

receiving a command from a provider apparatus;

processing said command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more provider apparatuses and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of provider apparatuses associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area size being based on subtracting the first area size from the size of the memory section and the first area size being based on the number of provider apparatuses the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of provider apparatuses,

wherein processing the command includes:

determining the access right data for one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the provider apparatus; and

accessing the predetermined area associated with the one of the plurality of area definition blocks in accordance with the determined access right data; and

transmitting results of said processing.

Claim 26 (currently amended):   An information processing apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a command from an apparatus for providing service;

means for processing the received command by utilizing a memory section that allocates to a first area and a second area, the first area including a plurality of area definition blocks each of which stores (i) information relating to a predetermined area in the second area which is used by one or more apparatuses for providing service and (ii) access right data for one of the plurality of apparatuses for providing service associated with the area definition block which defines access rights to the predetermined area, wherein the area definition blocks define the information and the access rights data so that the predetermined area of the second area associated with the provider apparatus can be accessed by another provider apparatus, the second area size being based on subtracting the first area size from the size of the memory section and the first area size being based on the number of provider apparatuses the second area including a plurality of user blocks managed in a block unit having a predetermined size, wherein each of the plurality of area definition blocks has the predetermined size, the block unit being used by a plurality of apparatuses for providing service,

wherein processing the command includes accessing one of the plurality of area definition blocks associated with the apparatus for providing service; and

means for transmitting results of said processing.

Claim 27 (previously presented):   The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the block unit is configured to be accessed by two or more service providers.

Claim 28 (new): The method of information processing as claimed in claim 16, wherein the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses.

Claim 29 (new): The information processing as claimed in claim 20, wherein the second area includes a purse block, the purse block being reserved for storing data that is subtracted and added and has a plurality of access levels associated with the plurality of provider apparatuses.